

GRADE: K- Adult
TIME: 45 min-1hr
SEASON: Spring, summer, fall

LEAF PRINTING

National Science Teaching Standards

- A.** Science as **INQUIRY**
- C.** **LIFE** Science

Objective:

Students will create one-of –a-kind T-shirts using leaves and other natural materials gathered from the area.

Pre Activity:

- Discuss uses of trees in the book.
- Observation activity: Have each student take off a shoe and put it in the circle. Select a shoe other than your own. Study it, looking carefully at the color, shape, ties or Velcro, designs, tread, etc. Collect all of the shoes and put them back in the circle. Have students write a description of the shoe they observed. Collect the descriptions. Pass the descriptions out to yet a different student. Have them read them and select the shoe they think it is. Discuss how scientists “see” some of the same things, but also “see” some things differently. This is the importance of working together and conferring with others!

Equipment:

- T-shirts (Provided by students)
- Fabric Paints
- Foam Brushes
- Newspaper
- Small containers of paint
- Leaves/natural objects

Procedure:

1. Arrange newspapers to cover the tops of the tables in the basement classroom.
2. Put a small amount of fabric paint into each of several small containers and place them on the tables. Paint may be mixed in the small containers to make additional colors. Not every color of paint will be on every table, so students may go from table to table with the shirts to use the colors that they choose.
3. Accompany the students on a brief leaf collecting trip.
4. Be sure to point out **Poison Ivy** and **Stinging Nettles** as plants to be avoided. Instruct students to collect leaves that have already fallen to the ground if possible. Return to the basement classroom.
5. Place a layer of newspaper inside each shirt to prevent paint from soaking through. T-shirts should be placed on the tables with the side to be printed facing up.

6. Paint a leaf using the fabric paint and foam brush.
7. Press the leaf paint-side down onto the shirt, making an impression of the leaf. Continue until desired design is complete.
8. Students may travel from table to table to select various colors. To minimize mess and smearing, it works best if only one side of the T-shirt is painted.
9. There is a retractable clothesline behind the building that may be used to hang the shirts to dry.
10. Place brushes into bucket of water provided to soak.
11. Discard leaves and newspapers. Paint will come off hands with soap and warm water.
12. Once home, to heat-set the paint, turn shirts inside-out and place in clothes dryer on warm setting or iron on warm setting, using something between shirt layers to keep design from transferring onto back of shirt.

Post Activity:

- Class take a hike around the school grounds. Collect leaves found or bring leaves from home. Identify leaves using library resources, field guides and/or internet. Press leaves. Make a non-fiction book of leaves, including leaves, kind of leaf and a fact about the tree. Let individual students share this book with younger students.
- Take another hike a different time of year collect leaves from the same trees; compare the leaves with the earlier leaves collected.
- “Plant a Tree”, *Iowa Supplements to Project Learning Tree*, pp.110-111
- Read the *Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein. Discuss

Post Discussion:

- Compare different leaves looking at T-shirts or leaves collected. Share differences and likenesses.
- What jobs do trees have in the forest?
- How do trees help us and our environment?
- Discuss deforestation and reforestation.